

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 6, 2014

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ed Whitfield
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Power
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton and Chairman Whitfield,

As Members representing the Midwest, we respectfully write today to request a hearing into the current propane shortage, the long term outlook of Midwestern supply and potential solutions to the problem. As you may know, households and businesses across the Midwest have seen significant spikes in the price of propane fuels during the severe winter cold. Any further reduction in supply threatens to leave our constituents without the fuel necessary to heat their homes and to keep livestock and poultry barns warm.

According to the Energy Information Administration, Midwest residential propane prices, for the week of January 20, averaged \$2.50 per gallon, compared to \$1.74 per gallon a year ago. The situation grew much worse last week with prices averaging \$4.20 and reaching upwards of \$5.00 in some areas. Several factors are potentially contributing to the current price increase and supply shortage, including unseasonably cold and wet weather, supply disruptions, and an increase in exports.

This is a problem that is not going away. A formal hearing to fully investigate the role and resources available to moderate supply and relieve skyrocketing prices during the coldest time of the year is vitally important to thoughtfully considering viable long-term solutions to meet our energy needs.

We respectfully urge you to promptly schedule a hearing to discuss this timely and important issue to our constituents.

Sincerely,



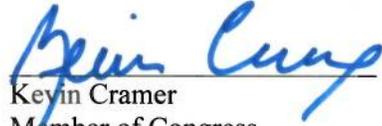
Tim Walz
Member of Congress



Bruce Braley
Member of Congress



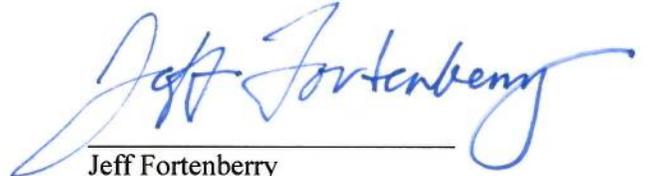
Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress



Kevin Cramer
Member of Congress



William L. Enyart
Member of Congress



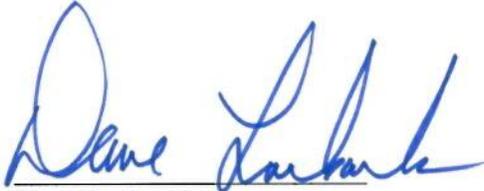
Jeff Fortenberry
Member of Congress



Ron Kind
Member of Congress



Steve King
Member of Congress



Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Kristi Noem
Member of Congress



Rick Nolan
Member of Congress



Collin Peterson
Member of Congress



Reid Ribble
Member of Congress